

STB members receive update on inland port

During their monthly board meeting held in Cordele, the State Transportation Board heard a presentation on the benefits of building a Cordele Inland Port (CIP) from Heart of Georgia Railroad and Cordele Intermodal Services, Inc.

"We see this new inland port creating a new logistics hub for the entire state," said Brad Lafevers, President and CEO of Atlantic Western Transportation Inc. "It will not only contribute to the growth and efficiency of the Georgia Ports Authority, but it will create a new economic engine for this region."



Vega Biofuels, an alternative fuel source company, proposes to build a manufacturing plant in Cordele. Their decision was largely due to the development of the CIP. Two other companies are considering Cordele as a prospective site because of the expected CIP. Those businesses would bring a combined total of 2,300 jobs and an \$11 million investment to the southwest Georgia region.

Economic prosperity is not the only benefit of the inland port, according to presenters. The project will also help alleviate growing truck traffic on highways and reduce harmful air emissions. Additionally, the CIP will improve shipping services and reduce business costs in southwest Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida panhandle. This improvement would make shipping freight to the Savannah port more cost effective than using ports in other surrounding states.

Cordele Intermodal Service, Inc. and Heart of Georgia Railroad’s efforts to develop the inland ports have produced positive results. The outcomes projected for the fully functional CIP has garnered support from the Governor, Legislature, Georgia Ports Authority, prospective shippers and many others.

Georgia *Leading the Way* in Transportation Investments

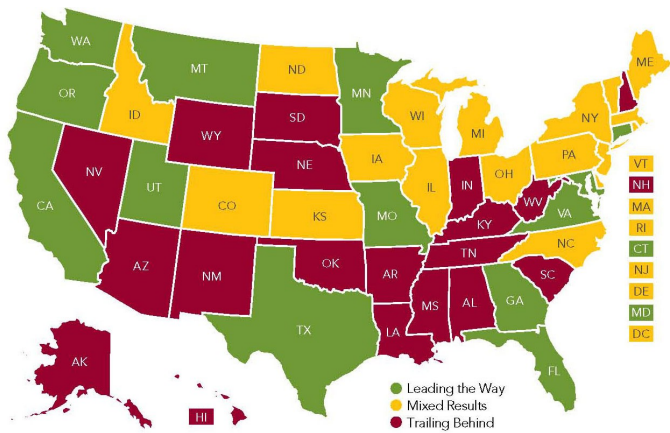
A joint study measuring nationwide transportation investments, found Georgia to be one of only 13 states to receive the top distinction of *Leading the Way*. The study, conducted by The Pew Center on the States and The Rockefeller Foundation, determined whether states had critical performance measures in place for taxpayers’ investments in transportation.

The study was significant because of the amount of tax payer dollars states are spending on transportation systems. In 2010, an estimated \$131 billion was spent on transportation.

The Pew-Rockefeller study measured the 50 states plus Washington D.C. in six policy areas:

- 1. Safety
- 2. Jobs and commerce
- 3. Mobility
- 4. Access
- 5. Environmental stewardship
- 6. Infrastructure preservation

Three categories were used to assess each state’s ranking: *leading the way*, *mixed results* and *trailing behind*. The study acknowledged Georgia’s efforts in advancing transportation



SOURCE: Pew Center on the States and the Rockefeller Foundation, 2011.
Graphic Courtesy of Pew-Rockefeller Project

results by tracking progress through goals, performance measurements and better data. It also recognized the importance of having the proper tools in place for policy makers in Georgia to advance in areas such as economic competitiveness, improving citizen’s access to jobs, and helping residents and tourists move about more efficiently.

Georgia has implemented a business-case approach for evaluating transportation projects. Employing this method helps Georgia select projects based on the best return on investment.

Did You Know?

STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

Estimated motor fuel collections, fiscal year to date, are \$757,468,287.28 and is 0.19% over budget. This represents an increase of 10.25% over last year's collections of \$687,020,715.68 for the same time period.

TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The total employment figure for the month ending April 30th is 4,667. The report shows we hired four permanent employees and promoted seventy-four employees; thirty-four employees have separated their employment with the Department.

Next Board Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia – June 16th